

## UNDER 17's

**Coach: Adam Butfling / Managers: Nicky Bennie & Beth Kendrick**

Minor premiers....

What an extraordinary achievement. As the new coach of the boys this year, we now find ourselves working towards a finals series and it is important to explain how we got to this place.

It is important first, to talk about the team as a whole.

All members may remember the extra ordinary weather events at the start of the year. The extraordinary heat wave in late Jan-Feb and then the 25 days of rain in a row just prior to the start of the season. This is an important note to understand when it is combined with the second major factor.

Miranda Bombers 17 team- 2017 is a conglomeration of three groups of boys from three previous teams. It was a simple fact there was a situation where even the introduction of the boys to each other was delayed and complicated.

Subsequently... in games one and two, the boys played disjointed football in unusually sloppy rain and ground surfaces. Many factors contributed to the first two games of the season being losses.

In the third game, some defensive structures had started to be included in training sessions and after holding Heathcote square for three quarters, the boys put the structures in place in the fourth quarter and rebounded four straight goals and then a fifth to seal a win against Heathcote. The first of the season leaving the boys at 1- 2 on the ladder.

Another key to the season was game 4. This is when the boys came up against Glebe and the cracks in the boys full melding at that stage were very evident. A one quarter avalanche allowed Glebe to skip away to an insurmountable lead, however the boys did battle back to reduce the margin and learn the different styles of play required for different grounds, structures, teams, weather conditions etc.

When game 5 rolled around, the boy's strengths had been identified and structures had been put into place to maximise potential. We travelled to the other end of Sydney and in the wet, AGAIN, this time jumped Northern lights with four quick goals, particularly effective down the right forward flank. The boys continued to a comfortable win.

At the time Game 6 rolled around, the ladder and draw seemed to conspire to make the Pennant Hills game crucial to staying in touch with any finals thoughts or contentions. A great win was battled out by the boys... Moving them to 3 and 3 and in with a chance of staying in touch with the top four.

Game 7 against Forest Lions was a percentage boosting win

Game 8 Against Maroubra was an 8 point game for top four thought processes and after an even start, the boys put 5 ( over the top of half forward) goals in a row in the second quarter and held the very competent Maroubra team.

Game 9 was in the wind at Drummoyne and the most outstanding team performance of the year. Whilst Canada Bay were a very worthy opponent, the boys reached the equalisation rule being over 60 points up and many different position changes were started to be implemented and a few bench changes and tactics were implemented.

Game 10 against northern lights was again an equalisation win... unfortunately with a couple of long term injuries being dealt.

A three week break saw us implement a fun family/ son game and a desire for all to work towards the big clash against the top of the table Wests after the break.

A great "grinded out" win was had and it was a very important marker for the season. A very proud moment.